

2011 LAS LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

CHAN THYE SENG

Chan Thye Seng is a pioneer who during a 34 year career soared through the ranks of Singapore's National Library, heading key divisions including the Adult Lending Section, the Library Extension Section, the Home Reading Division, and the Planning, Training, Research & Development Division. Perhaps most important, he conceived of and managed the mobile library initiative and the library's decentralization program including planning the first branch at Queenstown and managing the enormously successful Marine Parade and Toa Payoh Branches as well as chairing the Work Improvement Team movement.

At an early stage in his career, Chan Thye Seng recognized the importance of participating in library organizations. He joined the Library Association of Singapore (LAS) in 1959, became a Life Member in 1965, served as a Member and Chairperson of many committees and held top LAS leadership positions including Council Member, Honorable Secretary, Vice President, and President. He also traveled extensively and was actively involved in representing the National Library and LAS in international library organizations including COMLA, IFLA, and CONSAL. In addition, Chan Thye Seng relishes sharing his knowledge and experience. He is a prolific writer who has authored over 100 articles, papers, and commentaries, principally chronicling the development of Singapore's library system. Even in retirement, Chan Thye Seng actively contributes to major LAS events and publications.

In recognition of one-half century of involvement in the library community in Singapore and abroad as a talented innovator, excellent manager, devoted mentor, cherished friend, and noted editor, author, and speaker, we honor Chan Thye Seng with the 2011 LAS Lifetime Contribution Award.